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ABSTRACT

What does comprehensive or systemic restructuring look like, and how does it affect the students and staff of a high school that undertakes such an effort? This guidebook describes a model for comprehensive high school restructuring, discusses how 10 high schools undergoing restructuring are addressing the 7 critical elements of the restructuring model, and examines the effects of comprehensive restructuring on student achievement, attendance, and the attitudes of students and teachers. The seven critical elements include high curriculum standards, effective teaching/active learning, results orientation, the use of technology, human resource development, parental/community involvement, and work redesign. Data were gathered through discussions with the principals, teachers, and students at the 10 high schools; followup telephone calls; and a survey of teachers and students. A conclusion is that schools reap greater benefits from restructuring when they are able to implement multiple innovations. In almost all the schools, a primary focus of assessment activity was on reading, writing, and mathematics. The schools' activities showed that the seven critical elements were important in their restructuring efforts. In the six schools for which assessment data was available, the results were positive. The three high schools farthest along in their restructuring activities also showed the most substantial gains in student achievement on reliable measures of performance. Two figures and three tables are included. (Contains 33 references.) (LMI)

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